

What's New in the MPDC

MAY 6, 2002

NEW RESEARCH SHOWS PHOTO RADAR CAMERAS ARE SLOWING DOWN DRIVERS IN DC

New research this week from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety confirms what the MPDC's own tracking data has found: photo radar cameras that target aggressive speeders are prompting more drivers to slow down on DC streets and highways. IIHS researchers measured travel speeds on seven neighborhood streets before the cameras were deployed and again at the same sites six months after deployment. At all of the sites, the proportion of motorists going fast enough to warrant getting a ticket went down, with reductions ranging from 38 to 89 percent. Speeds at comparable neighborhoods streets in Baltimore, which does not have cameras, stayed the same or even increased slightly. The MPDC began deploying five mobile photo radar vehicles in July 2001 for a month-long warning period; actual ticketing began August 6, 2001. Since then, the proportion of motorists exceeding the photo radar threshold has been cut in half, according to MPDC data. During the July 2001 warning period, 31 percent of motorists exceeded the threshold; in August 2001, the proportion was 26 percent. By March 2002, the percentage of motorists exceeding the threshold had been cut to less than 13 percent. Average speeds on DC streets and highways have also declined since photo radar was implemented. On photo-enforced streets with a 25-mph limit, for example, the average speed has fallen from 35.5 mph in July 2001 to 28.3 mph in March 2002. See the complete news release at:

Learn more about photo radar in DC, find the locations of the current 60 enforcement zones, and even recommend new enforcement zones via e-mail by going to the MPDC's photo radar page:
mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtml

Read the full IIHS "Status Report on Automated Enforcement" (available in PDF) at:
www.highwaysafety.org/srpdfs/sr3705.pdf
Or order a copy by calling the IIHS at 703-247-1500.

mpdc.dc.gov (click on News Room)

EAC GAINER REMOVES NAME FROM CONSIDERATION FOR POLICE CHIEF'S JOB IN ATLANTA

MPDC Executive Assistant Chief Terrance Gainer this week informed officials in Atlanta, Georgia, that he no longer is a candidate for the position of police chief there. Gainer had recently been named one of five finalists for the chief's job in Atlanta. He cited personal and family reasons for his decision to withdraw from the selection process. A 34-year law enforcement veteran and decorated Vietnam War veteran, Gainer has served as second-in-command of the MPDC since May 1998. As Executive Assistant Chief, he oversees all police operations. Get more information about the MPDC's organization and EAC Gainer's background at:

mpdc.dc.gov (click on About MPDC)

CROSS-AGENCY ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO BOOST PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor Williams, City Administrator John Koskinen, Chief Ramsey and the directors of six other MPDC agencies this week announced a new citywide initiative enabling inspectors from the various agencies to enforce certain easily recognizable regulations from other participating agencies. For example, police officers and regulatory inspectors will be able to cite businesses for violations involving trash, permits, overcrowding, fire code violations and other infractions they may observe during their everyday routine. This initiative will lead to more efficient use of government resources, higher regulatory compliance rates and, ultimately, safer and healthier

Well before the cross-agency initiative was formalized, agencies and community groups in PSA 206 were using a similar approach to combat problems associated with drinking and rowdiness in the Georgetown community. Read their community policing success story at mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/2nd/success_psa206_0012.shtm

neighborhoods. Over the past month, 381 officials from the seven regulatory agencies, including more than 100 police officers, received cross-training from the partnering agencies on 34 different infractions that will be targeted. Chief Ramsey said that addressing regulatory violations quickly and effectively will help reduce the chances that quality-of-life infractions will develop into more serious crime problems in DC neighborhoods. See the news release describing this initiative at:

mpdc.dc.gov (click on News Room)

WASHINGTON-AREA MEMORIAL SERVICE KICKS OFF NATIONAL POLICE WEEK OBSERVANCES IN DC

Law enforcement officers from throughout the Washington-Baltimore region who have been killed in the line of duty are honored on Monday, May 6, during the 23rd Annual Memorial Service for Law Enforcement Officers. The annual ceremony is sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary, Jerrard F. Young Lodge DC #1, and is held outside the Henry J. Daly Building (MPDC headquarters). Both Young and Daly were MPDC officers killed in the line of duty. This year's ceremony includes memorials

View an on-line memorial to the 117 MPDC officers killed in the line of duty dating back to 1871, and submit a remembrance of a fallen officer, at: mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/officers/officers.shtm

to the four law enforcement

officers from the Washington-Baltimore region who were killed in the line of duty over the past year. A Roll Call of Heroes honors all of the region's fallen officers dating back to 1980. Details about the Washington-area memorial service are available at:

The Washington-area memorial service helps to kick off National Police Week observances in DC, May 12-18. Get complete details on the national event, including the 14th annual candlelight vigil scheduled for May 13, at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, at: www.nleomf.com/index1.html

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV